



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
DEPARTMENT OF
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.T.E. 03-125

December 10, 2003

Petition of Western Massachusetts Electric Company requesting approval of its 2003 Rate Change Filing and of changes to its rate tariffs effective January 1, 2003 for consumption on and after that date, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 1A(a), 220 C.M.R. § 11.03(4) and the Restructuring Settlement Agreement approved by the Department of Telecommunications and Energy in D.T.E. 97-120.

On November 26, 2002, Western Massachusetts Electric Company ("WMECo") filed with the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department") a Rate Change Filing along with proposed changes to WMECo's tariffs ("Rate Change Filing") pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 1A(a), 220 C.M.R. §§ 5.03 and 11.03(4) and the Restructuring Settlement Agreement approved by the Department of Telecommunications and Energy in D.T.E. 97-120. The proposed changes in rates, effective January 1, 2004, include the following: a transition charge rate of \$0.00828 per kilowatt hour ("KWH"); a default service credit or \$0.00011 per KWH on the transition charge; a transmission charge rate increase for each class of service of \$0.00006 per KWH; and a standard offer service rate of \$0.05607 per KWH. The Company's last reconciliation filing is under investigation by the Department in D.T.E. 03-34.

Any persons wishing to submit written comments on this Rate Change Filing should file as follows: an original with Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary; five (5) copies with the Hearing Officer, Kevin Penders; and a copy to the service lists in D.T.E. 97-120, D.T.E. 01-36/02-20, and D.T.E. 03-34. The original and copies for Department staff should be delivered to the Department of Telecommunications and Energy, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) Friday, December 19, 2003.

Please submit your comments to the Department in electronic format using one of the following methods: (1) by e-mail attachment to dte.efiling@state.ma.us; or (2) on a 3.5" disk, IBM-compatible format. The text of the e-mail or the disk label must specify: (1) the docket

number of the proceeding (D.T.E. 03-125), (2) name of the person or company submitting the filing, and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document (e.g., Initial Comments). The electronic filing should also include the name, title and phone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. Text responses should be written in Word Perfect (naming the document with a “.wpd” suffix), in Microsoft Word, (naming the document with a “.doc” suffix) or as an Adobe PDF file (naming the document with a “.pdf” suffix). Data or spreadsheet responses should be compatible with Microsoft Excel. All comments submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department’s Website, <http://www.magnet.state.ma.us/dpu> .

A copy of the Company’s filing is on file at the Department's offices, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts for public viewing during business hours. Copies are also on file for public viewing at the offices of the Company, 174 Brush Hill Avenue, West Springfield, Massachusetts 01090, and at WMECo’s Legal Department, 101 Federal Street, 13th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110. Any person desiring further information regarding the Company’s filing should contact Pat Wood, 413.787.9293, at the Company’s offices, or Stephen Klionsky, Esq., 617.748.5140, at WMECo’s Legal Department. Any person desiring further information regarding this notice should contact Kevin Penders, Hearing Officer, Department of Telecommunications and Energy, at 617.305.3500.

WMECo is required to serve a copy of this Notice upon the service lists of D.T.E. 97-120, and D.T.E. 02-20; and to any person who has filed a request for notice with the Companies no later than Friday, December 19, 2003, and make return of service at the close of the comment period.

By Order of the Department,

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary